

From: [McLeod, Carol <Carol.McLeod@maine.gov>](mailto:McLeod.Carol@maine.gov)
To: [Gina Turcotte](mailto:Gina.Turcotte)
Date: 11/13/2007 8:21:46 AM
Subject: RE: Gina Turcotte

Hello Gina,

Believe it or not I really do understand everything you wrote. I have bi-polar in my family so I am very familiar with the symptoms, and believe me I can certainly sympathize. Now, did you receive the letter from David Lachance explaining that you are eligible for FML from 09/27/2007 thorough 12/27/2007? If not I will send you a copy or email it. You may also reapply for FML starting 01/01/2008 and I will mail the application to you if you need it. The problem with working while you are on FML Gina is that one of the reasons FML is granted is due to an employee's inability to work whether for personal health issues or those of a family member. I do not have a solution for you Gina although I wish I did.

I will speak with our FML expert and see if there is anyway we can assist you in your current situation. Please stay in touch and know we do care and worry about you.

Carol McLeod
 Personnel Assistant
 SHS # 29 101 Hospital St.
 Augusta, Maine 04333-0029
 phone: 207-624-9011
 Fax: 207-624-9313

-----Original Message-----

From: Gina Turcotte [mailto:mortalsage@astound.net]
Sent: Friday, November 09, 2007 4:32 PM
To: McLeod, Carol
Subject: RE: Gina Turcotte

Miss Carol,

You are such a sweetheart!! Please don't ever change... ☺ Please also know that I miss DMV and everybody there so very much... I have to consciously NOT think about DMV because if I do it will add to my sadness... I do love you all so much... and appreciate your positive thoughts and energies...

Your email said that there has been no Personnel Officer in several weeks – does that mean that Tom Birmingham left DMV?? If yes, was this expected or not?? Oh My!! ☺

I don't know how much or to what degree you know about Bipolar disorder, Type I (Manic), but it is very difficult to understand and comprehend how it affects a person's life... I have been treated (medicated) for this since 1991 and have been prescribed every Rx that is available for this disorder... my last attempt was in Aug. 06 when the latest and greatest drug on the market knocked me on my ass for 14hrs and then I was sluggish for the remaining 10hrs of consciousness... which is what most of the "effective" meds all have done... that type of demeanor is definitely not conducive to being a productive member of society... and I have discussed it at length with my M.D. and she made a note in my medical file officially "failing" me on every Rx known to mankind for Bipolar disorder... there are at least 2 dozen that I have taken since 1991... all to no avail... but it is because the Rx's medicate the body, not the mind... and it is the mind's activity, its awareness's and knowledge's that create the swings in mood and personality... it is being aware that we all are dichotomies... we are all good and evil, at the same time... we simply choose to accentuate one or the other at that particular moment... but with people who feel ALL feelings COMPLETELY and without restraint, it is difficult for us to reconcile if we are "good" people or "bad" people, etc etc etc because we choose contrary to our best interests when the feelings overcome us... does any of that make any sense at all???

So, with the latest event in my life back in September, it was the knowledge and awareness of what was going to be my future if I stayed in Maine, 20 miles out in the woods, with no vehicle and no family able to help, regardless of their willingness... reality slapped me in the face that financially I was devastated if I tried to remain in Maine... and this knowledge of future devastation compelled me to make a seemingly "irrational" decision to pack up and move within 3 weeks to a place 3000 miles away... but the only reason I moved as far away as I did is because I know I can be homeless out here and not freeze to death... I was homeless in Maine about 1 year before I came to work for DMV... I was living at a hotel in Augusta hoping I would have money to pay the bill when I left... this has been my life, Carol... and when the tree destroyed my car I knew what my life was going to succumb to if I stayed in Maine... and that knowledge propelled me into a "state of mania" which sent me flying to California in search of survival... nothing more, nothing less... and that is the craziness about this disorder... we Bipolar people are highly intelligent and capable people; our disorder sets in when we FEEL our feelings and allow those feelings to do what they do to us... we then appear irrational and crazy to those who don't experience what we experience... and there is no way to describe it save the description I just gave you above...

11/26/2016

So, now my depression (the other half of the disorder) is setting in because I'm trying to do things "on the up and up" but my procrastination to work because I want to maintain my integrity is creating further financial hardship for me, and that is destructive as well... so, I don't know what to do, Carol... I only have 2 choices as I see it – 1) live on my \$1300 income protection insurance and \$710 SS disability and hope my daughter gets a good paying job, or 2) quit my job in Maine so I can get a job out here without screwing myself with the powers-that-be who sign my checks... or, 3) I can get a job out here without notifying the state of Maine... but that is not an option because I just told you what I was going to do... and I cannot live with myself if I don't maintain my integrity as much as I am able...

So, Carol, that is my brief and as concise a description as I can give at this moment that might help to explain the nature of my unorthodox request to work while on FML... If you would please pass this along to those who would be interested in reading it, I would very much appreciate it...

In the interim, keep smiling... it warms the energy that you send out!!

Gina

From: McLeod, Carol [mailto:Carol.McLeod@maine.gov]
Sent: Friday, November 09, 2007 5:29 AM
To: Gina Turcotte
Subject: RE: Gina Turcotte

It's so good to hear from you Miss Gina. Glad you have found a home at least for a time. Depression can be so difficult to deal with but the medications they have these days can work wonders if given time. I certainly hope you are taking care of yourself. By doing that you will also be caring for your daughter. Anyway, I do know that you are approved for FML through December 28, 2007. As for working during this time, all I know right now is that you should inform me if and when you obtain a job. Your FML is based on health issues, which have precluded you from working. The thing is Gina at least you now have some time to think this through. I will try to get a definitive answer for you soon.

We have not had a Personnel Officer here for several weeks, which has not allowed me much time to do anything but put out fires. There is a lady starting Tuesday so I'm hoping things will return to normal soon. I will be in touch and thank you for sending your current address etc. You take care and know I am thinking of you. :-)

Carol McLeod
Personnel Assistant
SHS #29 101 Hospital St.
Augusta, Maine 04333-0029
phone: 207-624-9011
Fax: 207-624-9313

-----Original Message-----

From: Gina Turcotte [mailto:mortalsage@astound.net]
Sent: Friday, November 09, 2007 2:22 AM
To: McLeod, Carol
Subject: Gina Turcotte

Hello Carol... this is being sent from my new home email account as a result of getting internet installed in my home yesterday... I do not like to use my yahoo account for professional correspondences as they are usually filtered at the firewalls... so I will send from this account from now on...

I am writing for a few reasons...

One is to say HELLO THERE!! ☺ I am finally settled, at least for a few months temporarily, in Walnut Creek, California... in case you are unaware it is on the East Bay of San Fran about 15 min. east of Berkeley... it's a little town nestled in between some mountains and hills... Jenna and I found ourselves a small house to rent for the next few months until I figure out what I am doing with my self and my life... right now I am simply trying to survive... that's all it has been since the trees came crashing down into my life on that night in September... and currently I am fighting off a very powerful depression that is having residual effects on my daughter... and the depression is being caused by not knowing if I need to quit my job in Maine in order to work out here in California while I choose to be here, or if I will be allowed to work while I am on FML... I understand the nature of my request to work while on FML is unorthodox and I am fully prepared to provide a full and clinical explanation as to the reason for the request. I am sure my LCSW will provide all supporting clinical expertise to support my statements... I simply need to be asked to provide them and I will do so immediately...

Secondly, I wanted to give you my new mailing address: 2302 San Juan Ave, Walnut Creek, CA 94597

I will write more in the morning as it is late and I'm exhausted in many ways... Until then,

Thank you,

Gina Turcotte